

Amusements Co-List.

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been arrested, and there is no doubt about his guilt. It is safe to say that he will be punished to the full extent of the law. But more than that ought to be done. If the Long Island towns wish to keep the population they now have, to say nothing of increasing it, the authorities must do something to make their communities less attractive to murderous vagrants.

The refusal of the United States Circuit Court at Philadelphia to grant the injunction asked by the Bell Telephone Company against the Overland Telephone Company caused an excitement at Boston yesterday. The sales of Bell Telephone amounted to about 1,000 shares, and the price dropped quickly from 181 to 145, but recovered to 160. The Overland Company, in resisting the injunction asked, set up the evidence taken in the Drawbaugh case, now pending in the Circuit Court at New-York, and the Court refused the injunction pending the decision of that case. It cannot be denied that this refusal was reasonable, for if the claims of Drawbaugh were reasonable, for if it would appear that an injunction would have done irreparable injury to the Overland Company. It does not appear, however, that the Court at Philadelphia acted in any sense or degree upon the merits of the Drawbaugh claim.

The requests made to the Board of Estimate for transfers of alleged unexpended balances began to come in thick and fast. The Board last year transferred about half a million dollars in this way, a greater sum than was ever before transferred in one year. How this practice may be made to defeat the law is clear in the case of the Commissioners of Accounts, who asked yesterday for a transfer of \$6,336 to pay for clerical aid. An appropriation for that purpose was refused by the Board of Estimate, a unanimous vote being necessary, and Mr. Asten declining to support it. But a “transfer” does not require a unanimous vote, though it is merely making the appropriation in another form. When Andrew H. Green was Controller, he held in a communication sent to the Legislature, February 1, 1876, that the law did not authorize the Commissioners of Accounts to appoint clerks and assistants. That is the same position now taken by Mr. Asten. It will be interesting to note what action the Board will take on this request for a transfer. In 1879 the Commissioners of Accounts made a similar request for a transfer. Corporation Counsel Whitney then advised the Board of Estimate that the law did not authorize a transfer except in case of a department. On this ground Controller Kelly reported against the transfer, and he was sustained by all the members of the Board of Estimate. But as Controller Grant yesterday moved that such a transfer be made, it is evident that opinions of the law change with circumstances.

TROUBLE FOR THE COUNTY CLERK.

The facts developed by the Assembly Committee yesterday, in the investigation of the County Clerk's office, have a serious look. It looks as if Mr. Keenan failed to pay into the city treasury last year, as required by law, nearly \$14,000. At least the committee could learn of no statute which authorized the County Clerk to retain this money for his own use; and he was unable to enlighten them on this point. He could only say that he acted on the advice of his counsel, Mr. MacLean, a member of his political faction; and Mr. MacLean could only refer in a shadowy way to the advice of a Supreme Court Justice, whose name he did not reveal. But neither the County Clerk nor his counsel could cite yesterday any authority of law for the retention of this money. Moreover, there seems to have been a failure to comply with the statute in other respects. The County Clerk has not returned to the Controller a monthly transcript of his accounts, and he has employed a clerk, and paid him from the city treasury, without statutory authority. In fact, the affairs of the office appear to be conducted in an exceedingly loose manner, so far as the interests of the city are concerned. Mr. Keenan made no attempt to conceal his ignorance of his official duties, his entire unfitness for such a responsible place. And yet this man was for years an Alderman (as well as the owner of two or three liquor shops), and a member of the Board of Estimate, and the Sinking Fund Commission, and acting Mayor of the city! But this is only a fair illustration of the results of Democratic methods in the city government. Mr. Keenan was made County Clerk by Hubert O. Thompson, and like that officer he apparently thinks it only necessary to care for his friends, pay his large political assessments, and follow in a general way the footsteps of his predecessors.

But this is a serious matter for Mr. Keenan. Unless he can show good statutory reasons for the course he has pursued it will be necessary for the District Attorney, who supported him for County Clerk, to begin legal proceedings, as each one of the acts with which he now stands charged is made a misdemeanor. Mr. MacLean has also more than a passing interest in this matter. He was active in getting Henry A. Gumbleton removed, a few years ago, for alleged violations of law as County Clerk, and in securing the appointment of Hubert O. Thompson as Mr. Gumbleton's successor. Mr. MacLean now turns up as counsel for a County Clerk charged with violating the law. It will be interesting to ascertain also whether or not he is beating the air. The fact is that Mrs. Mary Miller's is a wholly exceptional case, and ought to be so treated. She has fitted herself thoroughly for the command of a steamboat. It is said that she knows the Mississippi as well as any pilot. She is familiar with all the duties of the position she seeks. She has actually commanded the steamboat which she owns. She is a thorough business woman, and as such trusted by merchants and shippers. All the testimony that has been brought forward in the case shows that she is fully competent to fill the place of steamboat captain, and all her personal interests require that she should have the license for which she asks. And since it is perfectly apparent that such a case can be by no possibility constitute a dangerous precedent, and since, above all, the law opposes no obstacle to the granting of the desired certificate, it is hard to understand upon what rational ground the Secretary of the Treasury can refuse Mrs. Miller's application.

A SLAVE-KING'S COMMISSION.

The return of General Gordon to the Sudan promises to be one of the most interesting events of the year. He has undertaken a most arduous and perilous mission. If he succeeds in reaching Khartoum, either from Suakim or from Wadi-Halfa, and in rescuing the garrisons and restoring tranquility among the tribes of the desert and the river, it will be one of the most brilliant achievements of his wonderful career. The inherent difficulties of the work that lies before him would dishearten a leader who had not been called upon to face serious crises and to conduct forlorn hopes many times before. The anomalous relations of the Home Government and the Egyptian authorities would confuse a practical statesman, who had not been hampered, harassed and distracted by foreign service in the employ of semi-civilized princes and governments. The unique character of the man, and his influence over the Sudanese, who learned to love and respect him while he was governing their country with justice, firmness and sympathy, will impart to this hazardous campaign the aspects of a personal feat of genuine interest.

General Gordon on arriving at Cairo found at the head of the Ministry the Armenian statesman whom he had pronounced in London to be “the one supremely able man” in Egypt. He had strongly recommended Nubar's appointment as the best security that could be fur-

nished for the restoration of order in the Sudan; and one of the first official acts of the new Prime Minister proves that this opinion was well founded. General Gordon had been in Cairo twenty-four hours before Zehbi Paşa was recalled to the Sudan. This was the king of the slave-dealers, whose power in the White Nile country had once been supreme. He had organized the infamous traffic in slaves, and commanded an army of fighting bandits occupying thirty stations on the river. He had maintained his supremacy after the Khedive extended their conquests above Khartoum, and had sent to Cairo an annual tribute. He had intrigued for the throne of Darfour, and when his solicitations and bribes passed unheeded, he had instigated the revolt of the slave-dealers, which General Gordon and his lieutenant, Gessi, finally succeeded in crushing out. Zehbi was detained in Cairo nominally as a prisoner; but although his crimes and treason were notorious, he was never punished. Ismail gave him a staff appointment when the Egyptian contingent was sent to Constantinople, and Tewfik showered favors upon him, and suffered him to live luxuriously upon the plunder of the slave trade. When Hicks's army was massacred, Zehbi was commissioned to raise an army of blacks for service in the Sudan, where, if victorious, he would have been free to reorganize his hands of slave-hunters and restore the grinding oppressions of monstrous government. General Gordon could not tolerate such an ally as this. As soon as he could confer with the British and Egyptian officials at Cairo, Zehbi's commission was revoked.

The character of the king of the slave-dealers was well understood in Egypt. The sources of his wealth, the influence which he exerted in the White Nile country, his treasonable intrigues, his manifold crimes, his reckless ambition to be the Sultan of the Sudan, have been repeatedly brought under the notice of the Khedive's Ministers. How did it happen, then, that in a great crisis in the Sudan Zehbi should have been invested with the title of General, and authorized to raise an army to be equipped from the Egyptian treasury? How was it possible to obtain the sanction of the British officials to so monstrous an expedition as the employment of this slave-inating king in a proposed military campaign in a region which had been decimated by his treachery and crime? It is not easy to supply the answers to these questions without conceding the inherent worthlessness of Egyptian methods of administration and the necessity for a radical change in the government of the country.

THE CASE OF MRS. MILLER.

It appears that the Solicitor of the Treasury Department has submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury an opinion of a singularly irrelevant character, *apropos* of the legality of issuing a certificate as master of a steam vessel to Mrs. Mary A. Miller, of Louisiana. In the first place the Solicitor discharges his official duty by stating that there is no provision of law prohibiting the issue of such a license to a woman. That, of course, is all that the Solicitor has any business with, and at this point his opinion should have ended. But it seems that he has personal feelings on the subject of woman's mission, and though the Secretary of the Treasury certainly never asked him to give his views on such a question, he has felt called upon to supplement his statement of the law with a long, rambling, incoherent and altogether unreasonable dissertation upon woman's rights. One would suppose from the panicky tone in which he writes that Mrs. Miller's application was an entering wedge for the introduction of an army of Amazons, and that thousands of women were waiting in breathless expectation the result of her experiment, prepared to rush headlong into all the most arduous and disagreeable occupations of men, if this pioneer was successful. It is scarcely necessary to say that such apprehensions are ridiculous, and that all fear that women may by any change in law be induced to “sexes” themselves, as the rhetorical Solicitor phrases it, is sheer nonsense.

As a matter of fact there are very few occupations in this country which are not, and which have not long been, as free to women as to men. But they do not seek these occupations for the perfectly sufficient reason that they are women. Nature can be trusted to maintain the distinction between the sexes without any help from apprehensive and fussy solicitors or others. There is no more danger that women will seek to usurp masculine employments than there is that men will do the opposite, and live out as nurses and maids-of-all-work. But those occupations wherein women possess equal capacity with men, they naturally enter, and it is perfectly right and proper that they should, since with all the beautiful attributes and gifts bestowed upon women, as enumerated by the Solicitor of the Treasury, there goes, in the majority of cases, the stern necessity of earning a livelihood. It is indeed curious that, notwithstanding the alarmist predictions as to the results of the woman's rights agitation, the fact remains that men encroach more upon occupations especially adapted to women, than women do upon men's occupations.

But what have these considerations to do with the particular case of Mrs. Mary Miller? Simply nothing at all, and therefore the Solicitor, in bringing them forward, has been beating the air. The fact is that Mrs. Mary Miller's is a wholly exceptional case, and ought to be so treated. She has fitted herself thoroughly for the command of a steamboat. It is said that she knows the Mississippi as well as any pilot. She is familiar with all the duties of the position she seeks. She has actually commanded the steamboat which she owns. She is a thorough business woman, and as such trusted by merchants and shippers. All the testimony that has been brought forward in the case shows that she is fully competent to fill the place of steamboat captain, and all her personal interests require that she should have the license for which she asks. And since it is perfectly apparent that such a case can be by no possibility constitute a dangerous precedent, and since, above all, the law opposes no obstacle to the granting of the desired certificate, it is hard to understand upon what rational ground the Secretary of the Treasury can refuse Mrs. Miller's application.

THE GAY HEAD DISASTER AGAIN.

A great deal of discussion has now been had concerning the Gay Head disaster, and it may be supposed that everything which could tend to an explanation of the wreck of the City of Columbus has been elicited. All kinds of opinions have been expressed by seamen and others familiar with the coast. Some of them have been of an exculpatory character, while others have been very strongly condemnatory. A supposed discovery of an unknown rock off the buoy of the Devil's Bridge reef promise at first sight to furnish a vindication of Captain Wright. It was, however, not sufficiently perceived that this rock was far too close to the reef, even if it existed, to constitute a justification of the course which carried the steamer to destruction. The fact remains, when everything has been said, that the vessel could not have struck either rock or reef if she had

not been between two and three miles out of her course. And now can the fact that she was so far out of her course on a clear night, and with all the lights plainly visible, be explained away?

After all we are brought back to the position stated by THE TRIBUNE: immediately after the event, that the captain cannot be relieved of the main responsibility, though the second mate may be shown to have neglected his duty almost unconsciously. The truth seems to be that Captain Wright went below with no other purpose than to warm himself, and that he fell asleep, and slept for nearly two hours. Meanwhile the steamer had been drifting to leeward, and the second mate had failed to make any allowance for this leeway. But it is difficult to believe that the vessel could have drifted two or three miles between 1 and 3 a. m., and in fact the captain of the Panther states that when he saw her, which was about the time Captain Wright went below, she was already two miles out of her course. If this is true it would show that Captain Wright had allowed her to drift, and had not perceived it any more than his subordinate did. His responsibility on this head, therefore, is not removed, and nothing can remove it as regards the culpability of leaving the deck in charge of an incompetent second officer under the circumstances.

In fact, the more the case is examined the plainer does it appear that the loss of the City of Columbus was the direct consequence of neglect of duty and bad seamanship and management, and that it cannot be by any rational method of inference be classed among those disasters which are justly attributable to unavoidable accidents.

“ECONOMY” ONCE MORE.

Mr. Randall and Mr. Holman, in the House Committee on Appropriations, mean economy, it is said. The word parsimony would fit the case better. Neither of those statesmen has ever shown that he knows the meaning of the word economy. The only understanding of the word that Democratic leaders seem to have is to spend as little as possible except for partisan purposes. To spend as little as possible when there is sound reason for spending, and when every dollar spent will come back a hundred fold—that is not economy at all, but merely stupidity.

Jones has bought a farm. It pays decently, but Jones is afflicted with a notion that if he spends one cent more than is absolutely necessary, he may die in the poorhouse. His neighbor buys manure and improved implements, and doubles his yield, getting back thousands where he spent hundreds in making his farm more profitable. But Jones holds every penny so close to his eyes that he never can see the dollar beyond, and spends not a cent in keeping his land productive or in labor-saving tools. Slowly the land wears out, and Jones does die in the poorhouse, while his neighbor gets rich. That is Democratic economy.

The farm of “Uncle Sam” is a good piece of property, and it yields at present a good income. But there are many ways in which, by reasonable expenditure, the farm could be rendered more profitable. Its natural channels of commerce could be so improved that the saving to the people in freights would exceed every year the whole cost of the improvement. But it is Democratic economy to spend as little money as possible, except when votes can be made. The commerce of this with other nations could be indefinitely extended by wise liberality in providing for the consular and diplomatic service. But Democratic economy has apparently labored to starve out that service altogether, or to cripple it to the utmost. A few millions spent in encouraging the establishment of direct steamship lines would enable our merchants and manufacturers to secure a foreign traffic worth to them millions yearly, and to the laborers millions more. But Democratic economy pronounces it shameful jobbery to spend money in promoting steamship lines. A decent sum expended each year in collecting official information of the state of different industries, their production, and the probable demand for their products, would save the country many millions that are now lost through ignorant misdirection of enterprise and labor. But Democratic economy will set itself to whittle down the stings appropriations upon which a narrow service now barely exists. The Democratic theory is to starve out even the most necessary bureaus, if thereby a few thousand dollars can be cut off the annual expenditures of a nation of fifty millions.

Wasteful stinginess is not entirely monopolized by either party, we regret to say. There are some Republicans who are so afraid of an imaginary “popular ignorance” that they dare not vote for measures they know to be wise. But melancholy experience teaches that the Democrats have nearly all of that kind of statesmanship. It is never the Democratic, but always the Republican party, that trusts the people to know when their interests are wisely promoted by public expenditure. It was the Republican party that inaugurated the building of railways across the continent, and the granting of home-steads to actual settlers, and the improvement of the real and important channels of National commerce. We shall see millions thrown away this year, no doubt, in trying to hire districts to vote the Democratic ticket. And then we shall see a desperate effort to save those millions, and to keep down the aggregate of expenses, by scripping and paring and starving the legitimate service of the people. That is what Democrats mean by “economy.”

One of the Maine Congressmen recently called our attention to the fact that this figure for the last congressional election in his State given in THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC for 1880 were taken from the preliminary and semi-official canvass, and consequently were not strictly accurate. The figures in question were the only returns that were available. The variations in the official figures, which we have received from the Secretary of State, are not large. The only effect of the official canvass is a change in the order of precedence in the total votes of the Congressmen elected. This error has not been corrected in THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC for 1881, issued this week, for the simple reason that there was no occasion for repeating any of the statistics relating to Congressional elections. The more appropriate place in which to revise the figures will be in THE ALMANAC for 1882, which will record the next election of Representatives.

The present issue contains the political news of last year, including full and accurate returns of all elections held in the States of Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New-Jersey, New-York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia. It also comprises a complete record of the interesting struggles over the election of United States Senators in various States—information which cannot be found in any other political annual.

Mr. “The” Allen, bowing to the majesty of the law as represented by the Board of Excise that refused to renew his license, has announced his intention to sell no other liquor except the innocent table beer and the tranquil sarsaparilla. But while this wholly revolutionary change in his bar, he asserts that he intends “to light the matter out,” adding that he expects by Monday or Tuesday to have the license renewed. It is to be hoped that Mr. Allen

will reconsider his determination to make a fight. Let the table beer and the sarsaparilla have a fair show all to themselves; who knows but that the patrons of the sarsaparilla will find in these humble, unobtrusive beverages, which cheer without intoxicating, a new and pleasing sensation. Mr. Allen may even find it to his profit to make the new order of things permanent. A tendency to simplicity marks all real social progress. Mr. Allen ought not to lose sight of this fact.

It is understood that the merchants and bankers of this city and the Institute of Accountants and Bookkeepers, of Brooklyn, are in favor of the passage of the bill now pending in the Legislature which abolishes all days of grace allowed on drafts and notes. The people who have or who are to have notes or drafts to pay have yet to be heard from.

“What the Social Classes Owe to Each Other,” by William G. Sumner. Well, they owe one important thing to each other which seems to have been lost sight of by the professor in his zealous efforts on behalf of free trade. They owe what the Declaration of Independence calls “a decent respect to the opinion of mankind.”

The *Union Herald* is of the opinion that it would be well if the veil of secrecy were lifted from the executive sessions of the United States Senate. This veil exists chiefly in tradition and imagination. There used to be a droll story current at Washington based upon the alleged extreme gaudiness of the veil. A Senator who had unavoidably missed an executive session not a newspaper man soon after it was over. “Was anything special done in executive session?” inquired the Senator, with the calm confidence of a man who realized that he has reached a trustworthy source of information. “Oh, yes!” promptly replied the correspondent, “a very important matter was taken up and discussed.”

“What was it?” eagerly asked the Senator. The correspondent blushed, hesitated, cleared his throat, called his mistake, and finally declared that “You’d have to excuse me, I hate to deny your request, but the proceedings of executive sessions are secret, and experience has taught me that you Senators are a leaky set of men.”

The *Atlanta Constitution* draws a sad picture of its environment. “Within one hundred yards of the office,” it is plaintive mood, “wagons are literally up to the hub in mud. Part of Elliott, in a quarter mile of the depot, is literally impassable.” Assuming that our contemporary's account of the state of these wagons and this street is literally correct, it looks as if Atlanta was likely to be known as the New-York of the South.

Speculators are having a hard time of it in England, also, according to *The London Standard*, which stated yesterday morning that important failures in the grain trade had been for some time expected. There, as in this country, a powerful ring had undertaken to sustain prices, in the teeth of events all over the world, and the natural result has followed. Heavy losses, however, are still supported from day to day by powerful financial interests in England, in the hope that “the market may improve”—that is, that plucked laborers may have to pay more for bread.

Some arrests of leading trades-unionists in the Monongahela coal region call attention to the struggle that is going on there between employers and the unions. The cause is as usual; the unions have attempted to dictate, not only to employers, but to those of the miners who would be glad to resume work on terms proposed. As the miners in that whole region are united, it is believed, in one league, and have made trouble for those who resist their dictation, the workmen are really more interested than the employers in having such a tyranny broken up. The latest reports are that the operators are causing leaders of the trades-unions to be indicted for conspiracy, and that many arrests have been made. It is a pity that so many sturdy and honest workmen should be led to forget that every other worker has an absolute right to work where and on what terms he pleases.

Dispatches from Boston received yesterday stated that all the New-England mills have entered upon a policy of reduction in wages; that all the mills of Lowell, Lawrence and Fall River, including even the Pacific mills, will join in the movement, though the reduction proposed will not be the same at different mills. At some points the cut will be only 5 per cent, and at others as much as 12 per cent; some have been reducing gradually for weeks, while others are now posting a 10 per cent reduction. There is no indication of concert of action, but the mills make such reductions in each case as the nature of their trade appears to render necessary. It may be added that the latest Boston journals show that the great struggle between the labor union and the employers is now in progress, and that the result will be a long and bitter fight.

Senator Culbourn of Illinois, is described as a well formed man, with thin, dark brown hair and a plain face. His shoulders are broad, and drop somewhat over the back at which he sits. He is now fifty-four years old, and does not rank with the millionaire Senators.

The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons held its ninety-eighth annual meeting on Thursday, and re-elected President James J. Barclay, who is now more than ninety years old and is only the second president the society has had. The occasion was marked by the presentation to Mr. Barclay of many tokens of appreciation of his long and faithful services.

Col. F. D. Mussey, son-in-law of Governor Foster and recently his private secretary, is negotiating for the purchase of *The Independent News Journal*, whose policies will be changed from Liberal Democratic to Independent Republican, if the transfer is effected. Col. Mussey had a wide reputation as a correspondent prior to taking office four years ago.

An excellent portrait of Samuel Rogers, the poet, has been presented to Harvard College by Dr. William Everett, and it will be hung in Memorial Hall. Dr. Everett has passed upon the sketch of the frame a sheet of paper containing a short history of the picture. It was painted about the year 1847 by Chester Harding, and by him sent in the spring of 1848 to Edward Everett, who was then president of Harvard College. By his administrator it was presented to Sidney Brooks. From him it was passed by will in 1878 to William Everett, and it is now in the hands of Dr. Everett, who is now president of Harvard College. It is to be hoped that Mr. Allen

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